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92 69. (Amended) The shield of claim 66 including means to indicate at least one chosen from the origin of the shield, lot number of the shield, expiration date of the shield and patient information, said indicating means disposed proximate said aperture and in said field of view.

74. (Amended) A shield for a color measuring device used in dental applications comprising:

93 a body defining a cavity and including first and second end, said first end separated from said second end a pre-selected distance;

a first aperture defined by said first end, said aperture for disposing in a position chosen from against and adjacent an object to be color measured;

a second aperture defined by said second end for disposing proximate an illumination source; and

a reference area associated with said body proximate said first aperture adapted to establish an illumination compensation factor.

75. (Amended) The shield of claim 74 wherein the shield is adapted to prevent contamination from passing from a first patient to subsequent patients.

80. (Amended) A shield for a device used to measure the color of dental objects within a field of view comprising:

94 a body defining a cavity through which illumination passes, said body of a predetermined length; and

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an illumination reference area associated with said member in the field of
view.

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84. (Amended) The shield of claim 83 comprising indicia means for providing
information captured in the field of view.

86. (Amended) An instrument for acquiring a color image of a tooth within a
field of view, said instrument comprising:

a housing;

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an illumination source within said housing for illuminating the field of
view;

an image sensing device within said housing for sensing an image of the
tooth; and

a disposable shield including a first end removably connected to said
housing and a second end defining an aperture within the field of view, the shield providing a
desired spacing between the tooth and the image sensing device when the second end is placed
against a portion of a patient's mouth, said second end including a reference area that establishes
a compensation factor for illumination within the field of view.

87. (Amended) The instrument of claim 86 wherein said first end provides a light
tight seal against said housing.
